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receipt of the foregoing notification from the International Association of the Kongo, and declares that, in harmony with the traditional policy of the United States, which enjoins a proper regard for the commercial interests of their citizens while, at the same time, avoiding interference with controversies between other powers as well as alliances with foreign nations, the Government of the United States announces its sympathy with, and approval of, the humane and benevolent purposes of the International Association of the Kongo, administering, as it does, the interests of the Free States there established, and will order the officers of the United States, both on land and sea, to recognize the flag of the International African Association, as the flag of a friendly Government.

In testimony whereof, he has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, this twenty-second day of April, A. D. 1884, in the city of Washington.

[SEAL.] FREDK. T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

M. STRAUCH, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGO, TO M. JULES FERRY, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

BRUSSELS, *April 23, 1884.*

MR. MINISTER: The International Association of the Congo, in the name of the stations and free lands which it has founded in the Congo and the valley of the Niadi-Quillou, formerly declares that it will not cede them to any power, under the reservation of special conventions which might intervene between France and the association to fix the limits and the conditions of their respective actions.

However, the association, desiring to give another proof of its friendly sentiment toward France, agrees to give to it the right of preference if, from unforeseen circumstances, the association should be led some day to alienate its possessions.

(S.) STRAUCH.

M. JULES FERRY, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FRANCE, TO M. STRAUCH, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGO.

PARIS, *April 24, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, by which, in your position as president of the International Association of the Congo, you transmit to me assurances and